42D CONGRESS, 1st Session. | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. | MIS. DOC. No. 40.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

ST. LOUIS COUNTY WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

APRIL 17, 1871.—Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

Your memorialists, officers and members of the St. Louis County Woman Suffrage Association, organized in the city of St. Louis, State of Missouri, in May, 1870, respectfully and earnestly urge a submission by Congress of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States securing the right of suffrage to women upon the same terms and with no other conditions than shall be imposed on men.

Every consideration which impels Government to extend and secure the elective franchise to men applies with equal force to women. Equal responsibility before the law demands the recognition of a corresponding right to participate in the enactment of the law. This is an axiom of republican government which should no longer be ignored. A denial of the application of this political axiom to woman is an anomaly in our Government. It stamps female citizens as an inferior class, and necessarily deprives them of innumerable advantages enjoyed by the governing class. It encourages feebleness and dependence in the class thus proscribed. It induces on the part of woman the exercise of an indirect influence upon political affairs highly injurious because unattended by a just sense of her duty and responsibility. Upon the other hand, a recognition of this axiom of the civil equality of the sexes secures justice to woman, an equal advantage in all the avenues of life, tends to elevate public morals, and to bring into public affairs the refining influences which are now confined to social life.

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